

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-07 AF-04 PM-03 NSC-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CCO-00 AID-01 /025 R

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O 272330Z JUN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS. OREP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO BERBERA, SOMALIA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MCCLOSKEY

1. AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLIC SOMALI INVITATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE ACTUAL DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AT BERBERA, TWO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT BERBERA THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL SEND A SMALL DELEGATION LED BY CONGRESSMAN SAM STRATTON AND INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN SPENCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND WON PAT OF GUAM. THREE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS (AS YET UNNAMED) MIGHT JOIN THEM. THE HOUSE GROUP PLANS TO LEAVE WASHINGTON JULY 4 AND RETURN JULY 7.

2. THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES
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WOULD SEND A SMALLER DELEGATION INCLUDING SENATORS BELLMON AND BARTLETT OF OKLAHOMA PLUS ONE DEMOCRAT AS YET UNNAMED. THEY PLAN TO LEAVE WASHINGTON JULY 2 AND RETURN JULY 7.

3. IN BOTH INSTANCES, THE DELEGATIONS WILL BE COMPOSED
LARGELY OF MEMBERS WHO ARE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE DIEGO

GARCIA PROJECT BUT THE SENATE STAFFERS REPRESENT THE
LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION (MANSFIELD AND SYMINGTON).

4. THE TWO GROUPS LOGICALLY SHOULD COMBINE INTO ONE TRIP.
HOWEVER, THEY HAVE FLATLY REFUSED TO DO THIS SO FAR FOR
REASONS OF SCHEDULING.

5. WE ARE KEEPING HANDS OFF OF THESE CONGRESSIONAL VISITS
AND ALLOWING THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE THE LOGIS-
TICS. THEY ALSO ARE MAKING NO EFFORT TO
PRESSURE THE TWO GROUPS TO COMBINE SINCE IT WOULD TAKE A
PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. WHILE THERE
WOULD BE SOME INCONVENIENCE FOR THE CHARGE IN SOMALIA, IT
IS CLEARLY NOT WORTH IT IN OUR JUDGMENT TO GET INTO THE
ACT. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE152119
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: H:KBJENKINS:RMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750224-0003
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506103/baaaaanuu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971105
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OREP, SO, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006